

Maine Climate Council Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG) Meeting Summary from February 29, 2024

Welcome

- Goals of the meeting are to view presentations and discuss policy proposals from two sub-working groups and to view a presentation and discuss policy proposals regarding potential implementation metrics for the recommendations of this working group.

Integrating Resilience with Emergency Management Response, and Recovery Planning

- David Ludwig, CRWG staff member, presented on behalf of the of integrating resilience and emergency management, response, and recovery planning subgroup.
- Presentation included an introduction to the different governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved in natural hazard mitigation and planning, along with key framing questions, equity considerations, and barriers that have limited progress so far.
- Potential strategies and actions were presented for the working group's consideration and discussion. Most were designed to fit within existing recommendations under Maine Won't Wait's existing Strategy F, Build Healthy and Resilient Communities. See presentation slides.
 - As applicable, proposed recommendations and actions were offered that would replace existing ones from the previous version of Maine Won't Wait which had targeted completion dates in 2024 or earlier.
- Proposed recommendations and actions focused on improving the existing process of creating Hazard Mitigation Plans, cooperation and capacity building, and specifically targeting emerging areas of natural and public health hazards associated with climate change.
 - Concerns raised in previous meetings were used to inform the policy proposals.

Getting Out of Harm's Way

- Jessica Brunacini of Maine Sea Grant presented policy proposals and background information for the getting out of harm's way subgroup (i.e., voluntary or coordinated movement of people and infrastructure out of areas subject to repeated flooding or coastal storms).
 - Other states have experience in this area, and we should examine their programs to learn from them. Community-driven approaches are most likely to be successful.
- This subgroup proposed the following policy concepts, and invited more detailed discussion from working group members and public participants:
 - Policy Concept #1: Develop or strengthen policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms to support coordinated actions across the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Remove/Relocate)
 - Policy Concept #2: Conduct a feasibility study to explore potential funding mechanisms for, as well as social, economic, and cultural implications of, a state-level buyout and acquisition program.

- Policy Concept #3: Develop a framework and identify funding to support facilitated community conversations for collaborative learning, dialogue, deliberation, and long-term planning around removal/relocation strategies.

Goals and Metrics to Track Maine's Adaptation Progress

- The CRWG co-chairs presented for discussion the following six goals and used them to frame additional recommended metrics (see meeting slides for full details):
 - Support local and regional assessments of vulnerability to existing and emerging hazards.
 - Integrate resilient design standards in new infrastructure projects.
 - Modernize state and local floodplain management.
 - Incorporate determinants of health in climate preparedness and response strategies.
 - Develop and implement enduring, consistent and responsive communications strategies to support community conversations on resilience.
 - Invest in decisions to support communities' adaptation and resilience.

Next Steps:

- Interested working group members have agreed to assist with developing and refining metrics in improving psychological resilience and leading a presentation at the next meeting.
- Policy recommendations and metrics presented at this meeting regarding the following subject areas have been shared with working group members:
 - Integrating resilience and emergency management response, and recovery planning
 - Getting out of harm's way

Working group members will review the suggestions presented at this meeting and provide additional feedback to staff prior to the next meeting.

- Upcoming meetings will be from 9 am to 12 pm (unless otherwise noted) on the following days:
 - Friday, March 22, 2024: virtual, [Register Here](#)
 - Friday, April 26, 2024: in person with virtual option. [Register here](#) (including those attending in person).
 - Marquart Building, Augusta, Room 118
 - Thursday, May 23, 2024: newly announced, details forthcoming. [Register here.](#)